

Municipal Election Methods

Non-Partisan Plurality	No primary. No runoff. Top vote getter wins. If multiple seats (at-large), top vote getters equal to the number of seats win.
Non-Partisan Runoff	No primary. Divide total votes by number of seats, then divide by two, add 1. Top vote getters above that threshold win outright. If below, runoff for the top two below the threshold. Example 1: 1 seat, 1,000 votes cast. Winner must get 501 votes to avoid runoff. Example 2: 2 seats, 1,000 votes cast. Winners must get 251 votes to avoid a runoff.
Other methods	These methods are not used in the Western Upstate: Partisan and Non-Partisan Primary. Both are similar to election method used for county council and general assembly.
Filing	Filing is set by city council, but must be done in time to meet the ballot deadline. 2 weeks for general elections, 1 week for special elections. 12 noon Friday to 12 noon Friday. Most observe a deadline of 2 weeks prior to ballot deadline. So in 2025, July 18-August 1.
Deadlines	Ballot deadline in 2025 is August 15, 12 noon.
Methods	Statement of intent form (partisan or nonpartisan) or petition (requires voter signatures).
Who conducts elections?	Almost all elections in the Western Upstate are run by the county board of elections. A few smaller towns run their elections themselves.
Districts	
At-Large	Represent entire city and elected by all voters.
Wards	Represent a specific area, but elected by all voters.
Seats	At-large, but running for a specific seat (usually numbered).
Districts	Represent a specific area and elected by the voters in that area.
Uncontested elections	State law allows cities/towns using plurality method to cancel the elections and declare winners when the number of candidates filing matches the number of seats.